



Southwood School

Year-End Community Report for 2016-17

Care. Learn. Grow.

About Us

- Southwood School originated in 1947 and has a long history of supporting student learning and personal growth.
- 470 students, 28 teachers, 7 Educational Assistants, 2 Secretaries, 1 Library Clerk, and a custodial staff of 3.
- We offer a variety of hands-on and expeditionary learning opportunities for our students. An emphasis on providing learning spaces like our *MakerSpace*, outdoor learning classroom, flexible classrooms, and nature playground areas support these learning opportunities.
- We have a strong commitment to innovative pedagogical practices that incorporate technology to provide a richer learning and relevant learning experience for students. These include playbased teaching practices, *STEAM*, coding for students, and inquiry supported lesson planning to meet provincial curricular outcomes.
- Southwood School values meaningful learning partnerships between students, parents, staff, and outside sources.

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Planning Priority #1 - Acquisition of literacy and numeracy skills: what we learn.

Year-End Accomplishments

- Literacy (reading and writing) skills improved by 3.8% from term 1 to term 2 based on data retrieved from provincial report cards. Significant growth was observed in our current grade three classes.
- Numeracy skills increased 2.9% based on the term 1 marks in comparison to the term 2 marks. Significant growth was observed in the domain of problem solving.
- Literacy and numeracy professional development sessions provided to teachers had productive impact on pedagogical practices and enhanced learning environments. Sessions focused on inquiry, vertical learning, three-act math (Graham Fletcher), and writing for audience and purpose, and literacy instruction.

Planning Priority #2 - Enhancing student learning engagement: how they are learning

Year-End Accomplishments

- An increased number of classrooms (33%) providing flexible learning environments that were also influenced by the Reggio Emilia approach.
- As observed in *Our School* data (April 2017), student interest and motivation has increased to 85% in comparison to the Canadian norm of 77%. This reflects an overall increase in the intellectual engagement of Southwood students. Contributions to this rise in engagement is attributed to the ipad rollout to grades K-2, *MakerSpace*, outdoor learning environments, and increased choice of flexible seating in our classrooms.
- Our school-wide house system and additional extra-curricular activities (school clubs, artist in the school, and ASRTS activities) have also been seen as opportunities which have increased student social and institutional engagement.

Planning Priority #3 - Student well-being: safety, resiliency, social-emotional regulation and coping strategies.

Year-End Accomplishments

- School-wide behavioural issues involving physical aggression was reduced by 14% from September 2016 to May 2017. This was contributed to an increase in guidance support for the 2016-2017 school year, the introduction of self-regulatory programs like *Zones of Regulation*, and classroom interventions like *Second Step*.
- School-wide House System was viewed as huge success in building school community and positive school culture. Provides a sense of belonging.

Top Five Highlights for 2017-18

- *Deeper Learning Plan* which focused on improving our pedagogical practices, learning environments, leveraging digital, and community partnerships. Significant professional development opportunities were provided to teachers and materials purchased to support this initiative.
- Numerous special events which involved our school concerts, literacy month, numeracy month, *STEAM* month, *Artist in the School*, *WISE Camps*, and our Student Learning Expo.
- The addition of engaging outdoor learning environments and the completion of Phase I of our Nature Playground Project.
- The introduction of our House Colour System which is intended to give each student a focus of identity outside of their classroom. It is designed to help build our school community, citizenship, and give students a sense of belonging and ownership.
- Our *MakerSpace* provides a dynamic space for students to dream, create, experiment, develop, and to become critical thinkers through the design process. Students have thoroughly enjoyed the *Monthly MakerSpace Challenges* that encouraged collaboration and community.